

HR 4052, Transportation and Infrastructure Reports Restoration Act of 2000

Mr. Speaker, as was mentioned by my colleague, the gentleman from Ohio, H.R. 4052 is a bill to restore transportation reports that were to automatically sunset on May 15 pursuant to the Federal Reports Elimination and Sunset Act of 1995, as amended.

The Reports Sunset Act eliminated all annual or periodic reports listed in the 1993 report of the Clerk of the House of Representatives. Some of those reports, such as the President's annual budget, are tremendously important and should not be eliminated.

The Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, on a bipartisan basis, reviewed the reports that fall within our committee's jurisdiction and determined which bills are necessary to maintain. This bill ensures that those important reports will not sunset.

These include a series of reports on such important items as water; air pollution; the safety, condition, and performance of our Nation's roads, highways, transit systems, bridges, and airports.

I strongly support the passage of H.R. 4052, and want to thank the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. Shuster), the ranking member, the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. Oberstar), and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure for developing and passing this bipartisan legislation.

I note in passing that this, as reflected by our colleague, the gentleman from California (Mr. Farr), that there is in fact a better way of doing this, to take the sunset provisions and have them triggered by a proactive set of positive events, so that we are not in a position of unilaterally sunsetting provisions that really should not be, but instead, having sort of performance indicators of why we want things to disappear, and that they would do so automatically when it is appropriate.

I look forward to pursuing this concept with our committee and staff to see if there is not a way to avoid going through this process in the future.

HR 1605, Judge J. Smith Henley Federal Building

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1605 is a bill to designate the courthouse building located at 402 North Walnut Street, Harrison, Arkansas, as the 'Judge J. Smith Henley Federal Building.' Judge Henley served the citizens of Arkansas for his entire life and was a revered and respected figure in Harrison. His family and roots are deep and longlasting in the county and city of Harrison.

Judge Henley's judicial career began with his appointment in October 1958 to the U.S. District Court for the eastern and western districts of Arkansas. He served as a chief judge of the eastern district during his entire tenure on the district bench. He also served as referee in bankruptcy for the western district and as associate general counsel for the Federal Communications Commission here in Washington, D.C.

An active church member, devoted family man, and loving father are also characteristics of this beloved local figure.

Mr. Speaker, it is proper and fitting to honor the contributions of Judge Henley with this designation. I support H.R. 1605, and I urge its passage.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

S 1567, C.B. King United States Courthouse

Mr. Speaker, it is, I think, appropriate for us to designate the United States Courthouse in Albany, Georgia, after one of Albany's great sons, C. B. King. As was referenced by my colleague, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LaTourette), in terms of his history there is one other little item. He did attend Tuskegee for a year before he joined the Navy and went on to Fisk.

He is most remembered for his legal activism in the South. In Southwest Georgia, he became

a leading civil rights attorney working closely with other lawyers from Macon, Atlanta, and Savannah. He believed in using the courts as an agent for change. He participated in numerous landmark civil rights cases, including cases to ensure the basic rights of American citizens to sit on juries free from racial discrimination. He was a firm believer in the provisions of Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 that provided equal job opportunities for African Americans.

King was a superior legal scholar and an excellent orator. He joined scholarship with these oratorical skills to produce a powerful presence in courtrooms. It is most fitting that we honor C. B. King with this designation. I support the bill and commend our colleague, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. Bishop) for his diligence in pursuing this legislation.

H. Con. Res. 281, Authorizing Use of East Front of Capitol Grounds for Performances
Sponsored By John F. Kennedy Center for the Performance Arts

Mr. Speaker, I join with the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LaTourette) in supporting House Concurrent Resolution 281, which authorizes a series of summer concerts sponsored by the JFK Center to be conducted here on Capitol Hill. These concerts are held from Memorial Day throughout the summer and conclude around Labor Day. I must say they have enriched my tenure here on the Hill.

On Tuesdays and Thursdays during the summer months, residents, many tourists and other visitors to Capitol Hill are treated to wonderful, free concerts, with entertainment provided by some of America's most enduring and endearing artists.

As with all events on the Capitol grounds, these concerts are free, open to the entire public, and will be arranged in accordance with the rules and regulations of the Office of the Architect of the Capitol and the Capitol Hill police. We do owe a debt of gratitude to the Kennedy Center for its sponsorship of the summer program which includes all types of music, dance, and vocal performances.

I thank the chairman for his expeditious handling of this resolution, and I urge my colleagues to support House Concurrent Resolution 281.

H. Con. Res. 279, Authorizing Use of Capitol Grounds for 200th Birthday Celebration of Library of Congress

Mr. Speaker, it is a genuine pleasure for me to rise in support of House Concurrent Resolution 279.

As my colleague, the gentleman from Ohio, mentioned, it authorizes the use of the Capitol Plaza on April 24 for events commemorating the bicentennial of the Library of Congress.

This institution is America's national library, the oldest Federal cultural institution. It is the largest collection of information in the history of the world. We are hopeful that this event will highlight the important role that this library and all libraries play in our democratic society.

As the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LaTourette) mentioned, the Library of Congress started with the magnificent sum of \$5,000 authorized under the act, signed into law by President John Adams. But by 1812, the collection had grown to a phenomenal 3,076 books. However, during the war of 1812, the library, along with other prominent Washington buildings, was burned and the collection was lost.

In 1850, Thomas Jefferson, who then had the largest personal library in America, sold his personal collection to the library for a modest sum, a few thousand more than that. It was very important not only because it helped restart the Library of Congress, but it changed the nature of the collection. Prior to that, the Library of Congress was very narrowly focused in terms of legal and historical topics, but because Thomas Jefferson was truly a renaissance man and had a wide sweep of volumes in a number of different languages that he had collected in his travels and service to our country, it included material on literature, and the nature of the library thus was fundamentally changed.

I am proud to say that due to the diligence of our outstanding staff and a little bit of luck, many of the original Jefferson volumes are still present, available in the rare book room for viewing. I am proud to say that it was a lot of fun just a week ago to view them once again.

Today's collection contains 119 million other items, books, photographs, maps, music, movies, manuscripts, microfilm, all viewed as the world's premier collection of knowledge. Of course, it is housed in the flagship building, I think the most magnificent in our Nation's capital, the Jefferson Building, which we recently celebrated its centennial in 1997 and its painstaking and loving restoration.

We are here today to celebrate the potential on April 24 for a long series of events which shall include the unveiling of commemorative coins and stamps, the opening of a major exhibit on Thomas Jefferson, and a national birthday party consisting of free musical performances open to the public.

I support this resolution, and I urge my colleagues, in joining me, to celebrate it in renewing our commitment to this important institution.

H. Con. Res. 278, Authorizing Use of Capitol Grounds for 19th Annual National Peace Officers' Memorial Service

Mr. Speaker, there is no more difficult job than those who have been charged with keeping public peace and order. They intervene under the most difficult of circumstances. We give them the power to use deadly force in connection with conducting their duties. Unfortunately, all too often, these men and women are themselves in harm's way.

Houses concurrent resolution 278 authorizes the use of the Capitol grounds for this most solemn service. I strongly support the resolution which honors these police officers, men and women who died in the line of duty in 1999.

During this last year, 134 brave peace officers from the ranks of State, local, and Federal service were killed in the line of duty. Mr. Speaker, 11 women lost their lives; 2 were members of the U.S. Army Police Corps. Sadly, history suggests that this week, 2 or 3 more officers will die in the line of duty; and there will be 350 more who will be injured or assaulted.

Mr. Speaker, in 1962, President Kennedy signed the law establishing National Police Week. May 15 is designated Peace Officers' Memorial Day, and the Capitol Hill ceremony will take place on that day. It is a day during which a grateful Nation will pay tribute to the sacrifice of all peace officers. As a caring Nation, we deeply appreciate that sacrifice.

Just 2 years ago in my district, on January 27, 1998, Portland police officer Colleen Waibel was killed during a drug raid. In honor of Officer Waibel and the other 28 Multnomah County, Clackamas County, and Portland police officers who were killed in the line of duty, I would like to enter their names into the Congressional Record at this time.

Multnomah County, Clackamas County and Portland Police Officers Who Were Killed in the Line of Duty

Thomas G. O'Conner

Charles F. Schoppe

Samuel S. Young

Albert W. Moe

James T. White

Ralph H. Stahl

James C. Gill

John J. McVarthy

Jerome Palmer

Robert E. Drake

Charles M. White

Phillip R. Johson

Charles E. Vincent

James A. Hines

Roy E. Mizner

Vernon J. Stroeder

Roger L. Davies

Robert P. Murray

Robert R. Ferron

Stephen M. Owens

Dennis A. Darden

David W. Crowther

Stanley Punds

Thomas L. Jeffries

Colleen Waibel

Jimmy Shoop

Robert `Bobby' Anderson

Scott Collins

Mark Whitehead

Mr. Speaker, to remember these officers, my city of Portland has built a monument in the Tom McCall Water Front Park that serves as a permanent recognition of the great sacrifice our officers made, as well as a tremendous service that all our officers provide. I was proud that my community recognized the importance of remembering these slain officers, and I think it is all together fitting to use the Capitol grounds to recognize those officers nationwide who gave their lives in the line of duty in 1999.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly support and urge passage of House concurrent resolution 278.